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**Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and
other elections: election of fourteen members of the
Human Rights Council**

Note verbale dated 2 July 2013 from the Permanent Mission of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretariat

The Permanent Mission of Algeria to the United Nations in New York presents its compliments to the Secretariat and has the honour to submit herewith an aide-memoire on Algeria's contributions and commitments to the promotion and protection of human rights (see annex) in support of Algeria's candidature to the Human Rights Council for the period 2014-2016 at the elections to be held in November 2013.

The aide-memoire is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006.

The Permanent Mission of Algeria would be grateful if the aide-memoire could be issued as an official document of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly under item 115 (c) of the preliminary list.

* A/68/50.



**Annex to the note verbale dated 2 July 2013 from the
Permanent Mission of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to
the Secretariat**

Aide-memoire

Candidature of Algeria to the Human Rights Council for the period 2014-2016

1. Algeria has decided to present its candidature to the Human Rights Council for the period 2014-2016, demonstrating the willingness of its Government to continue to advance democratic progress and cooperation with regional and international human rights organizations. Algeria also seeks to reaffirm its commitment to strengthening the Council's efforts to promote and protect human rights around the world.
2. This aide-memoire, submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/251, describes the activities conducted and plans envisaged in national policies and programmes relating to various aspects of the promotion and protection of human rights.

Ratification of international and regional human rights instruments

3. Algeria has acceded to all regional and international human rights instruments. Under article 132 of the Constitution, the treaties and conventions to which Algeria is a party take precedence over domestic law.
4. Algeria is mindful of its obligations and regularly submits periodic reports to the committees of experts and provides written responses to the communications it receives from various human rights mechanisms.

Contributions of Algeria to the work of the Human Rights Council

5. Algeria actively participated in the establishment of the institutional architecture of the Human Rights Council, both as a founding member and as coordinator of the Group of African States.
6. Following its election to the Human Rights Council in 2007, Algeria worked to strengthen dialogue and consultation and to establish a balanced and inclusive approach to all issues and situations related to the promotion and protection of human rights.
7. After serving a one-year term on the Council, the length of which was determined by a drawing of lots, Algeria continued to play an active role in this governing body, going well beyond its status of observer.
8. Algeria's continued commitment was recognized five years later when it was appointed Coordinator between Geneva and New York during the review of the work of the Council.
9. The first preparatory meeting of the review process, known as the Retreat of Algiers, was held in Algeria from 19 to 21 February 2010 and was attended by 110 Member States.
10. Algeria was among the first States to undergo the universal periodic review process. It is implementing the recommendations it accepted, which are aimed at facilitating the enjoyment of all human rights.

Cooperation with mandate holders

11. Algeria decided to strengthen its operational measures in respect of its cooperation with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council. In March 2010, the Government invited seven thematic mandate holders to conduct working visits to Algeria.

12. Government authorities are reviewing the observations made by three rapporteurs following their visits to Algeria under their respective mandates. Such cooperation will continue in respect of the visits to be conducted by the four other rapporteurs that have received invitations.

13. In addition to consolidating its cooperation with global mechanisms, Algeria joined the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. Two delegations comprised of five thematic mandate holders conducted visits to Algeria in December 2009 and December 2010.

Cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

14. Algeria maintains a relationship of trust with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and has consistently supported its initiatives and activities. The upcoming visit of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navanethem Pillay, will give fresh impetus to Algeria's relations with the agency.

15. In 2011, Algeria demonstrated its support for the Office of the High Commissioner by increasing its voluntary contribution to the budget. In March 2012, it contributed the sum of \$500,000 to fund a series of seminars and workshops for the least developed countries.

Strengthening the rule of law

16. In the beginning in 2011, the process of implementing the comprehensive agenda aimed at political, institutional, economic and social reform gained new momentum. The decision of 23 February 2011 to lift the state of emergency instituted in 1992 is evidence of this new dynamic.

17. The pursuit of the reform agenda, which was the subject of a broad-based national consultation process, led to the adoption of legislative measures, based on international standards, aimed at establishing the supremacy of the rule of law and strengthening the democratic process and good governance.

18. The legislation seeks to guarantee the exercise of fundamental freedoms, the role of elected officials and the participation of civil society as a key player in the democratic process.

19. During the same period, in January 2011, legislation to prevent and combat the scourge of transnational organized crime was strengthened through the establishment of the National Agency to Prevent and Combat Corruption.

National reconciliation

20. Through the implementation of the Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation, which was adopted by an overwhelming majority in a referendum,

Algeria continues its efforts to consolidate peace, which was restored after a decade of terrorist violence that fuelled the national tragedy.

21. The Charter and its implementing legislation include measures to compensate victims of the national tragedy and devote special care and psychological counselling to women and child victims of terrorism.

22. The Charter also addresses the issue of disappeared persons; cooperation on this issue has been established with the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances of the Human Rights Council. An invitation was sent to members of the Working Group to conduct a working visit to Algeria.

Cooperation with civil society

23. Support for civil society goes hand in hand with the advancement of the democratic process. The Government therefore strongly promotes the role played by civil society in support of national development efforts within the framework of a participatory democracy.

24. In this regard, in 2011, the National Economic and Social Council organized consultations with civil society in order to promote participatory democracy in the national development process.

25. Local development conferences with similar objectives were held, bringing together authorities from each of the 48 *wilayat* (provinces) and representatives of civil society in order to develop a platform of recommendations aimed at gearing local government development policies towards the needs of citizens.

26. Algeria involves representatives of civil society in the preparation of national reports on human rights issues and takes their contributions into account.

Promotion of economic, social and cultural rights

27. Forty per cent of the \$256 billion budget for the five-year programme to support economic recovery (2010-2014) is dedicated to human development.

28. Employment promotion, a key aspect of diversifying the economy, is pursued through mechanisms that integrate young people into the labour market and target both young graduates and unskilled youth. A series of measures, including the provision of various benefits and exemptions to young small and medium-sized business owners, were adopted in 2011 in order to enhance such mechanisms.

29. With regard to housing, the five-year programme provides for the construction of 2 million units, including social housing.

Promotion of women's rights

30. The promotion and integration of women in all areas of society is part of the legacy of the ideals of the Algerian Revolution. The Constitution in force establishes equality between men and women and prohibits all forms of discrimination. National legislation has been strengthened in order to prevent all forms of violence against women.

31. The Government's political will to support the advancement of women is evident in the adoption of legislation and the implementation of activities that have helped to consolidate equal opportunities and non-discrimination. Gender parity in

the areas of education, health and justice is one of several indicators of the significant progress made towards the empowerment of women.

32. The principle of setting quotas for the composition of elected bodies at the national and local levels was applied when the organic law on the representation of women in elected assemblies was promulgated. That decision resulted in an increase in the number of women parliamentarians, in particular during the past three terms. The percentage of women elected to office increased from 2.9 per cent in 1997 to 7.75 per cent in 2007, to 31.6 per cent (or 146 women) following the parliamentary elections of 10 May 2012.

Promotion of children's rights

33. Since its independence, Algeria has devoted most of its budget to the education of children, who are tomorrow's leaders, guaranteeing access to free and compulsory education to every Algerian child up to the age of 16. In recent years, many programmes and action plans have been developed to help the education system meet the challenge of the changes under way. Special measures have been implemented and awareness-raising campaigns have been held on behalf of children at moral risk, which required the Government to develop a rich and varied cooperation with United Nations agencies working in the field of child protection.

34. At the regional level, in 2011, Algeria hosted the 18th session of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.

Rights of persons with disabilities

35. The Government is working to realize of the rights of persons with disabilities guaranteed in the Constitution, in particular those rights relating to the access to health care, education and training necessary for a life of dignity.

36. A national commission on accessibility, which brings together the relevant ministerial departments, was established in 2011 with the objective of ensuring, inter alia, compliance with the technical standards that provide for the physical, social, economic and cultural access of persons with disabilities.

37. Persons with disabilities who are not gainfully employed receive benefits from the social security system; the State pays their contributions.

Freedom of opinion and expression

38. Algerian law provides for the right to information and freedom of the press as an essential mechanism for the protection of individual rights and as a forum for the exercise and enjoyment of freedom of opinion and expression.

39. Free and unrestricted access to programmes on foreign television channels and to the Internet is guaranteed.

40. The Information Act, promulgated in January 2012, established two regulatory authorities, one for print media and one for broadcast media. The Act decriminalized press offences and opened up broadcast media to the private sector.

Freedom of religion and belief

41. Article 36 of the Algerian Constitution states that freedom of belief is inviolable. In addition, various laws and regulations guarantee the principle of non-discrimination between the Muslim religion and other religions.

Human rights education

42. Human rights are included in the curricula taught at all levels of the Algerian education system. In addition, the basic training curriculum for law enforcement officers includes various modules relating to human rights.

National human rights institution

43. Algeria established the National Advisory Commission for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, an independent agency with the mission of providing early warning and monitoring respect for human rights.

Contribution to international solidarity

44. Algeria is committed to the principle of the interdependence of all human rights, which encompass civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights as well as the right to development.

45. The Government promotes dialogue, cooperation and solidarity based on shared responsibility in order to foster a common approach to promoting the three pillars of "peace and security, development and human rights".

46. Algeria calls for more democratic decision-making processes in international bodies and strict respect for the sovereign decisions made by peoples with regard to their political, economic, social and cultural systems. Its Government is committed to supporting peoples that are asserting their legitimate rights to self-determination, justice and dignity.

47. Algeria will continue its efforts to strengthen the effectiveness of international cooperation on counter-terrorism. Within the Human Rights Council, it will continue to advocate for initiatives that support victims of terrorism.

Future commitments of Algeria

48. The election of Algeria to the Human Rights Council would offer the Government the opportunity to renew its commitment to the Council and its spirit of constructive participation in the Council's deliberations. It would also offer Algeria the opportunity to join its efforts with those of other Council members to advance the cause of human rights and support the fulfilment of the Council mandate in accordance with the principles of universality, indivisibility, objectivity and non-selectivity. In this respect, Algeria stands ready to share its experiences in the areas of counter-terrorism and the implementation of a national reconciliation process.

49. Algeria will continue to participate in the universal periodic review process by encouraging constructive dialogue within the Universal Periodic Review Working Group and ensuring that the recommendations put forward aim to improve the human rights situation worldwide.

50. Algeria has mobilized a funding package of \$500,000 to organize, in collaboration with the Office of the High Commissioner, a series of workshops and seminars for the least developed countries.

51. It will continue its cooperation with universal and regional human rights bodies, including through the regular submission of periodic reports and by hosting various meetings and missions to promote human rights.

52. Algeria will withdraw its reservation to article 15, paragraph 4, of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, pursuant to the commitment it made on 22 February 2012 to the committee responsible for monitoring implementation.

53. It will continue its efforts to promote the role of civil society organizations in the implementation of the reform agenda as well as their continued participation in the preparation of periodic reports.

54. Algeria will establish a national mechanism to promote the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and follow up on implementation of those instruments.

55. Algeria is in the process of enacting a law on asylum, which aims to incorporate into domestic law the provisions of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees.

56. It will strengthen its cooperation with the special procedures. In that regard, invitations will be extended to other mandate holders of the Human Rights Council to conduct working visits to Algeria.

57. The Government of Algeria will redouble its efforts to achieve its goals of advancing the democratic process and diversifying the economy, both of which depend on the consolidation of the rule of law. The pursuit of these priorities will contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights; these are at the heart of the political and socioeconomic reforms under way which seek to guarantee the well-being of Algerian citizens and the prosperity of the country.
